

MEETING OF  
THE DELAWARE AGRICULTURAL LANDS PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

A meeting of the Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation was held at the Delaware Department of Agriculture, 2320 S. DuPont Hwy. Dover, Delaware, May 16, 2012, with the following members in attendance:

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| Robert F. Garey, Chairman                | Ed Kee, Secretary of Agriculture                            |
| William Vanderwende, Vice Chairman       | Lisa Embert representing Chip Flowers, Jr., State Treasurer |
| L. Allen Messick, Jr., Treasurer         | Mike Valenti representing Steve Ditmer, Forestry Council    |
| William H. "Chip" Narvel, Jr., Secretary | Theodore P. Bobola, Jr.                                     |

Absent: Robert L. Emerson, and Kevin Coyle.

The following staff members were in attendance: Austin Short, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, and Chief of Planning, Howard Mesick, Scott Blaier, Cathy Mesick, Milton Melendez, Kathi Spangler, and Robin West.

Others in attendance: F. Michael Parkowski, Esq.

Chairman Garey opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

I. Current Situation Report:

Robin West informed the Board that we have a total of 1,106 farms in preservation districts totaling 156,693 acres, with a total of 692 farms under agricultural easements totaling 105,558 acres at a cost of \$188,020,537. For PDR 17, there are a total of 30 new farms, comprising 1,438 acres, with a value of \$8,820,540 and 107 previously enrolled farms, comprising 11,895 acres, with a value of \$45,252,470. For the Forestland Preservation Program there are 37 Forestland Preservation Areas comprising 2,678 acres. For the Forestland Preservation Area Easements, there are a total of 9 properties, comprising 872 acres, with a value of \$1,450,804. For the Young Farmers Program there are a total of 10 Young Farmers program loans going through the settlement process, with an easement value of \$3,878,524. Twenty-nine prequalification applications have been received so far with only one being unapproved.

II. Monitoring Report:

Milton Melendez informed the Board that 76 parcels have been looked at since the last meeting, and out of the total Federal and non-federal 927 parcels, 339 parcels have been looked at so far.

III. Young Farmers Report – Austin Short suggested that the Board may wish to consider setting the dates for Round 2 of the Young Farmer loan applications at either its June or July meeting. Secretary Kee mentioned that there will be an event this summer in Sussex County to highlight the Young Farmers program.

IV. District Final Approval:

1. A D & D Farms, LLC District, ID#S-11-12-263. After discussion, **Chip Narvel, Jr. moved to accept for final approval the A D & D Farms, LLC District, seconded by William Vanderwende. Motion unanimously approved.**
2. Homeplace Farm, LLC District, ID#S-11-12-264. After discussion, **Allen Messick, Jr. moved to accept for final approval the Homeplace Farm, LLC District, seconded by Theodore P. Bobola, Jr. Motion unanimously approved.**

V. Expansions – Eligibility & Final Approval:

1. A D & D Farms, LLC Expansion #1 of the A D & D Farms, LLC District, ID#S-11-12-263A. After discussion, **Chip Narvel, Jr. moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the A D & D Farms, LLC Expansion of the A D & D Farms, LLC District, seconded by Theodore P. Bobola, Jr. Motion unanimously approved.**
2. A D & D Farms, LLC Expansion #2 of the Hanson Agricultural Lands District, ID#K-11-12-044 Q After

discussion, **William Vanderwende moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the A D & D Farms, LLC Expansion #2 of the Hanson Agricultural Lands District, seconded by Lisa Embert. Motion unanimously approved.**

3. Robinson Expansion of the Whitby Farms LP District, ID#K-12-03-067Q. After discussion, **Chip Narvel, Jr. moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Robinson Expansion of the Whitby Farms LP District, seconded by Theodore P. Bobola, Jr. Motion unanimously approved.**

4. McKinney Family Expansion #1 of the W.G. Passwaters #2 District, ID#K-12-03-067Q. After discussion, **Theodore P. Bobola, Jr. moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the McKinney Family Expansion #1 of the W.G. Passwaters #2 District, seconded by William Vanderwende. Motion unanimously approved.**

5. McKinney Family Expansion #2 of the Gary L. O'Day District, ID#S-11-12-242B. After discussion, **Ed Kee moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the McKinney Family Expansion #2 of the Gary L. O'Day District, seconded by Chip Flowers, Jr. Motion unanimously approved.**

VI. Secretary of Agriculture's Veto – Secretary of Agriculture Ed Kee waived the right of veto for the above Districts and Expansions.

VII. Public Comments – There were no public comments.

VIII. Minutes:

Chairman Garey asked if there were any comments or changes to the April 18, 2012 minutes. Hearing no changes, the Chairman asked for a motion to approve the minutes. **William Vanderwende moved to approve the April minutes, seconded by Allen Messick, Jr. Motion unanimously approved.**

IX. Financial Highlights:

Howard Mesick presented the Financial Statement for the month of April 2012, informing the Foundation Board that we had, as of April 30, 2012, \$31,919.71 in the Foundation's interest bearing State of Delaware account (most of the funds from this account were transferred into our account to purchase development rights). We received \$77.38 interest income, Rollback taxes from Sussex County in the amount of \$32.33, and \$350.00 license plate income. Expenditures for the month of April totaled \$36,219.08. After discussion, **Chip Narvel, Jr. moved to accept the April financial statement as presented, seconded by Lisa Embert. Motion unanimously approved.**

X. Executive Session – Michael Parkowski indicated there was no a need for an executive session.

XI. Other Business:

1. Wilson Farm

Staff has not received any formal proposal from the Magee family concerning their request for a conditional use permit or an amendment to their lease. Will keep this on the June agenda.

Austin Short added that 137 letters concerning the PDR 17 appraisals have been sent to landowners and that the appraisals will begin next week with the Sussex County farms, followed by the Kent and New Castle farms.

Secretary Kee informed the Board that Representative Carson is preparing legislation to eliminate the Delaware capital gains tax on preserved land. Theodore P. Bobola, Jr. stated that the State Farm Bureau will support such legislation.

XII. Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Foundation the meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m. The next meeting of the Foundation will be held on June 20, 2012 at the Delaware Department of Agriculture beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Robert F. Garey  
Chairman